

What is claimed is:

1. A contents providing service system for providing a contents file from a server apparatus to a client apparatus, wherein:

5 the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use  
10 prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment;

the server apparatus includes a supply unit for supplying the contents file to the client apparatus; and

15 the client apparatus includes: a decode unit for decoding the contents and the use restriction information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and a contents use restriction unit for allowing a utilization of  
20 the contents based on the decoded use restriction information.

2. A contents providing service system according to claim 1, wherein

25 the client apparatus includes a use request unit

for transmitting, to the server apparatus, a use request  
for requesting a use of the contents contained in the  
provisional use prohibit range;

the server apparatus includes a use approve unit  
5 for transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus  
when a use fee responding to the use request is paid  
in response to the user request; and

the use restriction unit of the client apparatus  
allows to use the contents which are requested to be  
10 used in accordance with the use approval.

3. A server apparatus for supplying a contents file  
to a client apparatus, wherein

the contents file corresponds to a file including  
15 contents and use restriction information which are  
encrypted, and the use restriction information  
indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use  
allow range of the contents and a provisional use  
prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the  
20 contents file is conditional on a user fee payment;

the server apparatus includes a supply unit for  
supplying the contents file to the client apparatus;  
and

the server apparatus allows the client apparatus  
25 to use the contents based on the use restriction

information.

4. The server apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
the contents include a plurality of partial contents  
5 which are mutually related to each other; and

the use restrict information represents the use  
prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents,  
the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use  
prohibit ranges thereof.

10 5. The server apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
the contents include a plurality of representation  
modes; and

the use restriction information represents the  
15 use prohibit ranges of the plurality of representation  
modes, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional  
use prohibit ranges thereof.

20 6. The server apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
the server apparatus includes a use approve unit  
for receiving a use request for requesting a use of  
the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit  
range from the client apparatus, and for transmitting  
a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee  
25 responding to the use request is paid in response to

the user request; and

the server apparatus allows the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

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7. The server apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the contents correspond to music information.

8. A contents supplying method for providing a contents  
10 file from a server apparatus to a client apparatus,  
wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including  
contents and use restriction information which are  
encrypted, and the use restriction information  
indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use  
15 allow range of the contents and a provisional use  
prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the  
contents file is conditional on a user fee payment,  
the contents supplying method comprising the steps  
of:

20 supplying the contents file to the client apparatus;  
and

allowing the client apparatus to use the contents  
based on the use restrict information.

25 9. The contents supplying method according to claim

8, wherein

the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and

the use restriction information represents the use  
5 prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

10. The contents supplying method according to claim

10 8, wherein

the contents include a plurality of representation modes; and

the use restriction information represents the  
use prohibit ranges of the plurality of representation  
15 modes, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

11. The contents supplying method according to claim  
8, wherein the contents supplying method comprises

20 the steps of:

receiving a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range from the client apparatus;

transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus  
25 when a use fee responding to the use request is paid

in response to the user request; and

allowing the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

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12. The contents supplying method according to claim 8, wherein

the contents correspond to music information.

10 13. A client apparatus for utilizing a contents file supplied from a server apparatus, wherein

the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information  
15 indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment;

the client apparatus includes:

20 a decode unit for decoding the contents and the use restriction information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and

a contents use restriction unit for allowing  
25 a utilization of the contents based on the decoded

use restriction information.

14. The client apparatus according to claim 13, wherein  
the contents include a plurality of partial contents

5 which are mutually related to each other; and

the use restrict information represents the use  
prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents,  
the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use  
prohibit ranges thereof.

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15. The client apparatus according to claim 13, wherein  
the contents include a plurality of representation  
modes; and

the use restriction information represents the  
15 use prohibit ranges of the plurality of representation  
modes, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional  
use prohibit ranges thereof.

16. The client apparatus according to claim 13, wherein

20 the server apparatus includes a use approve unit  
for receiving a use request for requesting a use of  
the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit  
range from the client apparatus, and for transmitting  
a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee  
25 responding to the use request is paid in response to

the user request; and

the server apparatus allows the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

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17. The client apparatus according to claims 13, wherein the contents correspond to music information.

18. A contents utilizing method for utilizing a contents  
10 file supplied from a server apparatus, wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of  
15 the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment, the contents utilizing method comprising the steps of:

decoding the contents and the use restriction  
20 information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and

allowing a utilization of the contents based on the decoded use restriction information.

25 19. The contents utilizing method according to claim



18, wherein

the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and

the use restrict information represents the use  
5 prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

20. The contents utilizing method according to claim  
10 18, wherein

the contents include a plurality of representation modes; and

the use restriction information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of representation  
15 modes, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

21. The contents utilizing method according to claim  
18, wherein the contents supplying method comprises  
20 the steps of:

receiving a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range from the client apparatus;

transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus  
25 when a use fee responding to the use request is paid

in response to the user request; and

allowing the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

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22. The contents utilizing method according to claim 18, wherein

the contents correspond to music information.

10 23. A computer readable recording medium on which a contents utilizing program for utilizing a contents file supplied from a server apparatus is recorded, wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are  
15 encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment,  
20 the contents utilizing program is used to cause a computer to execute the steps of:

decoding the contents and the use restriction information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and

25 allowing a utilization of the contents based on

the decoded use restriction information.

24. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 23, wherein

5 the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and

the use restrict information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use  
10 prohibit ranges thereof.

25. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 23, wherein

the contents include a plurality of representation  
15 modes; and

the use restriction information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of representation modes, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

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26. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 23, wherein the contents utilizing program is used to cause a computer to execute the steps of:

receiving a use request for requesting a use of  
25 the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit

range from the client apparatus;

transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus  
when a use fee responding to the use request is paid  
in response to the user request; and

5       allowing the client apparatus to use the contents  
which are requested to be used in accordance with the  
use approval.

27. The computer readable recording medium according  
10 to claim 23, wherein  
the contents correspond to music information.